Guide To Career Choices

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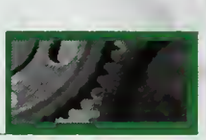
a brief look at:

- jobs
- education and training requirements
- wages
- outlook



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guide no. 17

ENTRY: The mean (average) of the bottom third of wages in an occupation.
MEDIAN: Half of the workers in the occupation earn more than this wage; half earn less.
EXPERIENCED: The mean of the top two-thirds of wages in an occupation.

HS > High School diploma or equivalent
AD > Associate Degree of Arts/Science community college, 2 years
BA/BS > Bachelor of Arts/Science degree colleges/universities, 4 years

Career Opportunities	OUTLOOK: 2008 EMPLOYMENT	OUTLOOK: LONG-TERM OUTLOOK	OUTLOOK: SHORT-TERM FORECAST	HOURLY WAGES: ENTRY	HOURLY WAGES: MEDIAN	HOURLY WAGES: EXPERIENCED	EDUCATION AND TRAINING
Educational & Vocational Counselors	6,575	F	F	$10.84	$18.55	$24.28	Master's degree is required.
Education Administrators	15,873	F	F	$16.02	$27.79	$32.56	A college degree and some combination of experience and graduate training.
Adult Non-Vocational Education Instructors	6,535	F	F	$6.25	$10.65	$14.14	Education and experience requirements depend on the subject and courses taught.
Librarians	6,255	UF	VUF	$10.59	$18.22	$22.79	A master's degree in library science is required in most public, academic and special libraries.
Library Assistants/Bookmobile Drivers	9,375	VF	VF	$5.69	$7.38	$9.29	HS is the minimum. Some prefer one-to-two years of college.
Teachers Aides & Education Assistants	25,020	VF	VF	$5.94	$7.51	$8.78	HS and 30 semester college hours required. Experience working with young people is a plus.
Paraprofessional Teachers Aides	38,374	VF	VF	$5.95	$8.19	$9.59	HS; some college and advanced training is required for student instruction.
Elementary Teachers	90,637	F	F	$13.55	$20.03	$26.69	BA/BS and completion of a teacher program, must be licensed by the State Board.
Vocational Education Teachers & Instructors	14,715	F	VF	$9.06	$15.24	$20.19	Experience and a license or certificate in field and a portfolio of work.
Preschool Teachers	17,554	VF	VF	$6.87	$9.16	$12.06	Public schools require a BA/BS in elementary education. Private schools have their own hiring standards.
Secondary Teachers	52,588	VF	VF	$14.29	$23.10	$30.66	A bachelor's and completion of a teacher program, must be licensed by the State Board.
Special Education Teachers	24,217	VF	VF	$15.27	$21.26	$26.43	BA/BS and completion of an approved training program with a specific number of credits.

- Occupational growth rates and job opening data are based on All-Industry projections through the year 2008.
- Long-Term Outlook and Short-Term Forecast descriptors are derived from projected employment growth and the level of employment for the occupation as a percentage of total employment.
- Wage data cover full-time, part-time and seasonal employees but exclude temporary and contractual workers. Wages include piece rates, commissions and cost-of-living allowances but exclude overtime and tips.

***data are not available

F Favorable
VF Very Favorable
UF Unfavorable
VUF Very Unfavorable

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE JOBS?

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY FACULTY...conduct classes beyond the secondary school level. Work includes preparing and delivering lectures to students, conducting seminars or laboratory sessions, preparing and administering examinations; conducting research in a particular field of knowledge and publishing findings in books or professional journals. Teachers at this level usually specialize in one field of study and require knowledge normally obtained through completion of a four-year program and additional graduate work. Most faculty are hired as instructors or assistant professors and advance to associate or full professors.

COUNSELORS...help students evaluate their abilities and interests so that they can develop good academic and career options. High school counselors assist students with college admission requirements, financial aid, applications to trade and technical schools and apprenticeship programs. College counselors help students with career information, job placement and with plans for continuing education.

LIBRARIANS...work in school library media centers, academic libraries and special libraries. In school library centers, they help faculty develop teaching programs, acquire materials for classroom instruction and sometimes teach.

TEACHER AIDES...perform duties that are instructional in nature or deliver direct services to students and/or parents. They may serve in a position for which a teacher or another professional has ultimate responsibility for the design and implementation of educational programs and services.

TEACHERS...in kindergarten and elementary schools introduce children to numbers, language, science and social studies. They use games, music, artwork, films, slides and computers to teach basic skills. Secondary school teachers specialize in one field (such as English) and teach a variety of courses in that field (such as writing, public speaking and literature). Special education teachers teach elementary and secondary school subjects to educationally and physically challenged students, such as those with impairments in hearing, vision or language. Adult education instructors teach basic reading, writing and math, college preparatory courses, or continuing education classes.

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WHAT IS THE JOB OUTLOOK?

Overall employment of kindergarten, elementary and secondary school teachers is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2008 and teachers at all levels are among the 50 occupations projected to have the largest number of job openings each year. Some central cities and rural areas have trouble attracting enough teachers, so job prospects should continue to be better in these areas than in suburban districts. Demand should be greatest in the fields of math, science, bilingual education and computer science.

The outlook is also good for college and university faculty. Many additional openings will arise as faculty members retire. And since the 18-24 year old population will grow through 2008, increased college enrollment will necessitate hiring more faculty. However, in an effort to cut costs, many of these positions will be left vacant or filled with part-time faculty members. Job prospects will continue to be better in those fields where there is the greatest student demand, such as business, engineering, health science and computer science.

WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

The Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2000-01 Edition, contains many additional sources of information for over 250 occupations in all sectors of the economy. You may order the Handbook by contacting the U.S. Government Bookstore, 401 South State Street, Suite 124, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1297, 312/353-5133 or check out the online version at http://stats.bls.gov/ocohome.htm.
For access to other labor market and workforce information on the internet, visit the following sites:
IDES' home page: http://www.ides.state.il.us,
LMI Source: http://lmi.ides.state.il.us,
Workforce Info Center: http://www.ILWorkInfo.com and a site targeted towards high school students:
http://www.workforceinfo.state.il.us.

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Career Guide Sources:
Illinois Department of Employment Security's "Occupational Projections" and "Occupational Employment Statistics Wage Data" and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' "Occupational Outlook Handbook"

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